

The monthly bulletin of the
Bar Hill Residents Association,
distributed to all residents.

1/VH

New Residents

We welcome this month:

Mr. and Mrs. Sherwood, 54 Fox Hollow; Mr. and Mrs. Smith, 122 Pheasant Rise
Mr. and Mrs. Wingate, 129 Pheasant Rise; Mr. and Mrs. Grigor, 99 Pheasant Rise.

PROPOSED BAR HILL SUPERSTORE

Last autumn, Bar Hill Developments Ltd. submitted for planning approval an outline planning application for a superstore complex in a central Village site between the school and the existing shopping centre. As a result of the strong feelings on this matter evident in the Village, the Residents Association carried out a door-to-door survey which indicated that the majority of the Villagers were not in favour of a superstore in this location.

In due course, a revised outline planning application has been prepared and this will be considered by the County Planning Authorities in mid-February. In this revised application the superstore has been re-located on the industrial site side of the spine path, although it still occupies a position in the Village centre. The general appearance of the revised application is shown in the attached extract from the site plan, which is reproduced with kind permission of Bar Hill Developments.

Mr. Rodney Dale, Chairman of the Bar Hill Parish Council, has indicated the Parish Council views on the revised application in this Newsletter (page 4). In view of the impact that this development will have on our daily life in the Village and the long-term implications involved, we, the Residents Association Committee, have decided to hold an open meeting on this subject on Friday, 8th February at 8.00 p.m. in the Church Centre.

The object of this meeting will be to report to the Villagers the facts concerning the outline planning application and describe the superstore complex with the aid of drawings provided by Bar Hill Developments Ltd. We will also report the Developers' response to various questions concerning the superstore submitted during recent meetings between the Developers, the Parish Council and the Residents Association.

After the above summary of the present situation, the meeting will be thrown open to questions from the floor concerning the proposed superstore.

The meeting will be chaired by W. Bishop, Chairman of the Residents Association, and the Parish Council will be present to report the development of the situation to date and where possible to answer questions.

It cannot be stressed too strongly that this proposed development will exert a lasting and irreversible influence on the structure and character of the Village centre. Hence it is most important that we, the Residents Association, have the opportunity to accurately judge the feelings of the Village on this important matter.

PLEASE ATTEND THIS MEETING

Antenatal relaxation classes

An 8-week course of relaxation classes for mothers who have reached 5 months or over will start on Thursday, February 7th at 7.30 in the Health Centre. The classes will last about an hour, with tea provided, and you are asked to bring a blanket to lie on and a small pillow. Husbands are very welcome to attend too. A new course is expected to begin in April - details later.

Yoga

The Bar Hill Yoga class extends a cordial invitation to new members to join us on Tuesday mornings, 10 - 12 noon in the Church Centre. Present members include a wide age range and both sexes; however fit you are (or aren't), Yoga can make you more supple and help you relax - and it's all done enjoyably at your own pace: no competition or sudden violent exertion (or stiffness for the next week!) The class is taught by Mr. Bob Roberts, a well-known instructor, and run by Swavesey Village College. Enquiries to The Adult Tutor, or G. Wills, 45 Acorn Avenue (80551) - or just come along.

Newcomers - Club

On 14th February we have Mrs. Asia Ashraf speaking on her "Way of Life", and on 28th February Mr. Eric Fisher will talk on OXFAM with slides and will have on show some handicrafts from India. All very welcome, please come at 2 p.m. to the Church Centre; creche for under-5's, tea served afterwards.

The Royal British Legion

An open meeting was held in the School on November 29th 1973 when it was hoped we would be able to get the views of ex-Service Personnel residing in the district. We propose to hold a further meeting in the School on Thursday, 7th February at 8 p.m. If you are ex-service, do please come along and support us. No organisation can function without members, least of all the Royal British Legion. There is, it seems, a need for Benevolent work in the area: please come along and join us, and help us to assist those less fortunate than ourselves.

Nearly New

There will be no Nearly New sales in February; the next dates are:
Tuesday, 5th March, 7.30 p.m. and Wednesday, 6th March, 10.30 a.m.

8 o'clock Club

Meetings for February: 7th, "Meals on a shoestring", a speaker from the Country Centre. 21st, our coffee evening will take the form of a Beetle Drive. A Kleeneze demonstration is arranged for March. Full details of meetings advertised in news-agent's window.

Horticultural Society

Mr. Foreman will give a talk on "Vegetable Growing" at 8 p.m. on Wednesday, 13th February in the School.

Retired Residents' Club

We welcome new retired residents to the Village; our Club meets at the Church Centre on Wednesday evenings at 7.30 p.m. On 6th February there will be a Social Evening and on the 20th a talk with slides, "A School in a Kentish Orchard" by Miss Pitts, a retired Headmistress.

1st Bar Hill Scout Group

Notice is hereby given that the A.G.M. will be held at the Church Centre at 8 p.m. on Wednesday, 6th February 1974. The main topics to be discussed are:

1. Formation of a Group Council
2. Formation of a second Cub Scout Pack
3. Formation of a Scout Troop.

The meeting is open to the parents of boys who are interested in joining the Cub Scouts and the Scouts (and whose son may already be on the waiting list, as well as to the parents of the boys who are already in the Cub Scouts. Please do try and attend if you are at all interested in scouting in Bar Hill.

Playgroup

We have several vacancies at Playgroup. For those new to the Village, we run 7 sessions, for two and a half hours each, and we charge 23p per session. Anyone wanting information can ask either Marie Purvey or Olive Devine, our two supervisors who are at the Church Centre every morning; or phone the Chairman of the Playgroup Committee, Janet Bishop (80231).

Each month we are hoping to collect different things, and a notice about the next month's collection will be put in the Newsletter. This month we would like wooden cotton bobbins, small pieces of lace and ribbons and trimmings. Nothing is too small! There will be a box left out at the Church Centre and all contributions will be most gratefully accepted.

On Tuesday, 26th February we are holding a coffee morning at 18 Acorn Avenue. There will be home-made bread and marmalade for sale, and we hope to see as many of you as can come (10 a.m. to 12 noon).

Red Cross

Anyone who is interested in the work of the Red Cross, in helping with any of its activities, or in attending courses is invited to contact: Mrs. J. Reeds, 30 Oatlands Avenue (80239).

Youth Club

Since January the Clubs meeting on Monday and Thursday evenings have had to amalgamate owing to shortage of staff. Club membership is growing steadily - all secondary school pupils are welcome. We normally open on Monday evenings at the Church Centre from 7 to 9.15, but please note the following dates:

Thursday, 7th February (no Club on Monday 5th).

Monday, 18th: half-term..

Tuesday, 26th: Shrove Tuesday pancake party.

We are grateful to adults in the Village who have helped on our "Beauty" course, and look forward to football under the auspices of Bar Hill Football Club, once the nights get lighter.

Any other offers of help will be gratefully received. The success of provision for the 11+ age range depends on Village support. It has not been much in evidence lately! Particularly needed: people with hobbies or skills prepared to do a "one night stand" - judo, photography, cooking, fencing, stage make-up - if you can spend an hour with local youngsters they will welcome you. Kate McIlhagga, 19 Acorn Avenue

Church Fair

The Church Christmas Fair on the market stall raised £32 - we would like to thank all those who helped to make goods, and especially those who helped on the stall. Our target for next year - £100!

Bar Hill Conservative Association

Programme of events:

- 5th February: 8 p.m. School Hall. "St. Valentine's Dance" - refreshments, bar, 50p.
- 21st March: Mother's Day Event (details to be announced)
- 28th April: "Treasure Hunt with a difference" (details to be announced)
- 1st May: Annual General Meeting, 8 p.m. School Hall.
- ? May: "Tulip Rally", date and time depending on information from Lincolnshire organisations.
- 16th June: "Father's Day Event", time and details to be released.
A trip on the "Viscountess Bury".

For further information, contact any committee member, or the Secretary Dave Edwards, 2 Almond Grove (80288).

Badminton Club

We now have the basis of a thriving Beginners and Improvers Club on a Thursday evening, 7 - 10 p.m. Residents who want to learn the game or who have played before and wish to start again are invited to apply for membership. We allow three free evenings for Beginners to decide whether they wish to continue, and the fee is then 50p per term. We can supply the equipment, all you need is a pair of plimsolls. For more information please contact: Tom Whitford, 24 Otter Close (80397), or the School Secretary.

Roman Catholics

Mass will be celebrated in the Bar Hill Church Centre on Monday, 4th February at 8 p.m. Afterwards coffee will be served, and there will be a chance to meet Fr. Sherman, the new Parish Priest from Our Lady and the English Martyrs, Cambridge. All Catholics, their friends, and members of the Church Centre are welcome.

Babysitting

Newcomers and new parents may like to know that there is a babysitting scheme in Bar Hill, whereby we pay each other in kind - tokens being used instead of money. If you would like to be put on the list (currently being revised), please contact Jean Prandy, 15 Acorn Avenue (80201); or Rowena Spalding, 51 Pheasant Rise (80762).

Animals

Rubbish-bags are again being attacked, and the contents scattered, by roving dogs and cats: it would be appreciated if pet-owners could keep their pets under control while rubbish-bags are awaiting collection.

A summary of the views of the Parish Council on the Planning Application
for the Village Centre

The Parish Council wrote a lengthy and detailed comment on this application, too long to reproduce here. The points made (among others) were as follows:

- that it was hoped that the Planning Department would consider comments on the earlier (withdrawn) centre plan, which might not have been re-submitted;
- that the Parish Council was concerned that the plan for the centre did not seem to show that the need for a centre of Village activities had been appreciated;
- that the Parish Council realised that there has always been the intention to provide further shopping, and that a superstore is one embodiment of this;
- that to put a superstore elsewhere in the Village would either create a traffic problem or damage the existing shopping facilities;
- that the Parish Council was concerned about the detailed planning of the buildings and landscaping the surroundings, and that the appearance of the centre should be compatible with that of the existing buildings.

I have been invited to attend the Residents Association meeting on Friday, 8th February and will be pleased to explain the Council's comments in more detail then.

Rodney Dale, Chairman

Letter to the Editor

Dear Sir,

May I draw the attention of residents to a hazard associated with the A604 Junction. At about 5.30 each evening a country bus usually drops some passengers at the junction and then proceeds on its way up the A604. These people then have to walk into the Village along the entrance road. The first fifty yards or so are very dark, and for some reason these pedestrians seem to prefer to walk on the left hand side, i.e. not facing the oncoming traffic.

Thus, coming off the A604, which is brightly lit by the headlights of streams of traffic in both directions, into an extremely dark environment, one finds the dark shape of a pedestrian, 3 feet out into the road (the grass is very wet and muddy there) a few yards ahead, and ignoring warnings given on the horn.

Surely the remedy is simple! walk on the right hand side of the road, facing any oncoming traffic and cross over further into the Village, where the lighting is much better. Then the pedestrian can see what is coming and take avoiding action.

Yours, etc.,

Nigel Martin, 41 Oatlands Avenue.

BHRA: From the Secretary's Notepad

Firstly, three messages from the Developers:

- (1) Residents on Phase 2 (Otter Close/Gardens, Oatlands Avenue and Partridge Drive) are again tipping waste engine oil down the road drains; this causes the lagoons in the Village park to become polluted. Would those responsible please dispose of the oil in the correct way, i.e. place the oil in a suitable container, to be collected with other refuse.
- (2) Landscaping of Phase 2 (as above); Phase 3 (Pheasant Rise); Phase 6 (Fox Hollow) will start on March 1st. A selection of trees will be planted in the front gardens of some houses, the residents concerned having first given their consent; locations will be marked out as planting progresses. To save time, if any resident does not wish to be included in the scheme, please advise the Sales Office; I repeat that residents who have not expressed an opinion will be consulted before planting goes ahead.
- (3) Nunn's (the Builders) wish to remind residents that they require Nunn's permission, as well as any Planning Permission or Building Regulation consent, before erecting fences, sheds and extensions to their properties; this is necessary under the terms of your leases.

Leases The Developers are consulting their legal department to see whether those residents holding 150-year leases can apply for an extension to 999 years. I will advise you of their decision in due course.

The Developers have stated that they would not object to a resident of 5 years' standing applying to them to acquire the freehold, subject, of course, to the restrictions laid down in Section 19 of the Leasehold Reform Act (i.e. you would still have to pay the annual Maintenance Fee).

(continued on page 5)

From the Secretary's Notepad, continued from page 4

On the subject of maintenance fees, the Developers are considering the possibility of using the rateable value of the property as the basis for assessing the fee, instead of the purchase price as at present.

We have informed them that in our opinion this is a much fairer system, and as such has our support. If agreed, the rate would apply for the current year as from 25th December 1973.

Village Trust A draft constitution of the Village Trust has been sent to Cambridge-shire County Council, the Building Societies' Association, and Chesterton R.D.C. for their consideration. The Developers are hopeful that a suitably amended draft could then be presented to the Village around the end of March this year, for the consideration of all residents.

A604 Junction We are all fully aware that the A604 junction needs to be improved. (The matter is now in the hands of the County Highways Department, whose responsibility it is to carry out the work.

In the meantime, however, although we recognise the reasons for doing it, we are very concerned about the "short cut" across the grass that is being used when the junction is congested. In our opinion, and that of the Developers, unnecessary hazards are being caused by motorists taking this action and also mud is being deposited on the main road.

The Developers therefore have decided to put a barrier across this part of the junction to stop the practice. Motorists are therefore warned that there may be additional delays at peak times.

The Residents Association for our part will put further pressure on the Highways Department to start the alteration work as soon as possible.

Kevin Read-Jones

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Please turn to page 6 for a copy of the
Village Centre plan referred to on the
front page

